

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408



January 22, 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letters of November 4 and 24 and December 1, 4 and 12, 1969.

You have requested that we treat all your letters and requests as your appeal under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). Since your letters and the necessary responses now comprise a large file, it would be administratively difficult to do this. Moreover, we feel the administrative burden is upon you to determine which records you are still interested in reviewing. Consequently, we are advising you to submit or resubmit a numerical list of these desired records, with accurate and sufficient identification, to us for our processing. Those records that can be released at this time, if any, will be made available to you forthwith. Those records that must still be restricted for some reason will of course be denied to you with the appropriate explanation. Once this process has been accomplished you will be in a position if you so desire, to appeal to the Director of Information, Office of the Administrator, General Services Administration, Washington, D. C. 20405, with appropriate documentation, as to any documents to which you have been denied access. If the Director of Information concurs in the NARS determination, then the final determination will be made by the Assistant Administrator for Administration pursuant to 41CFR105-60.404.

In regard to your other questions contained in your letter, please be advised that all materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy that we have received from the Secret Service are listed in one of our two letters to you dated November 18, 1969, and the enclosures to that letter. If you will furnish a citation to any parts of the Guidebook for Marines given to Carlos Bringuier by Lee Harvey Oswald that were published or copied by the Warren Commission, we will make a search for this material.

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Your requests for lists to which you refer have been for lists of individual documents that have been made available for research. We do not have such lists except the list of numbered documents of the Commission ("List of Basic Source Materials"), of which you have a copy. The offer to correct your copy of the list of numbered documents was made in response to your specific statement that your copy of that list was not up to date. The staff member who made the offer had previously agreed to correct your copy of the list when you suggested it at the time additional documents were made available following the death of Jack Ruby.

There are four memoranda by Arlen Specter to J. Lee Rankin relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy in the "John F. Kennedy 4-1 Autopsy" file. Two of these memoranda are dated March 12, 1964, and relate to interviews with the autopsy surgeons and with FBI agents present at the autopsy. These two memoranda were first made available to you and other researchers as part of the folder of green copies of internal memoranda dated from December 1963 through March 1964 addressed to J. Lee Rankin. This was before the first Dell printing of Richard Warren Lewis's The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report (New York: "First Dell printing-May, 1967") in which, as you say, the two memoranda are quoted on pages 113-116. The other two Specter memoranda are dated April 30 and May 12, 1964. They concern the photographs and X-rays relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy and were made available to you and other researchers when the remaining folders of green copies of memoranda addressed to J. Lee Rankin were made available for research, after the first Dell printing of the Lewis book.

The material you have requested, which we informed you is not known to be among the records of the Warren Commission, to the best of our knowledge is not in our possession. We do not know where it is. This includes Admiral Burkley's copy of Commission Exhibit 391 and the related material you mention.

Enclosed is a copy of page 284 of Commission Document 7. We have not found a copy of a receipt attached to any copy of CE 387.

We have no information concerning the letter dated November 26, 1963, concerning "laws and regulations regarding the confidential nature of the events" except the information in the covering letter we received from the Secret Service and of which you have a copy.

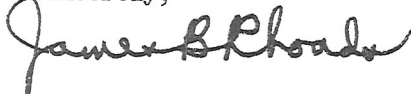
We do not prepare special photographs of President Kennedy's clothing for researchers. Enclosed are the prints of Commission Exhibits 394 and 395, made from the Commission's file copies of exhibits, which you requested.

An examination of the "John F. Kennedy 4-1 Autopsy" file has shown that it does not contain a copy of the certification reproduced in XVII Hearings 48 of the Warren Commission. Enclosed is a copy of this certification made from the copy which is part of CE 397. We have also sent a copy of this certification to Dr. John Nichols.

We have identified the photograph of which you sent us an electrostatic copy as a photograph which we took for Dr. Nichols. We have sent a print of the photograph to Mr. Bernabei.

The Secret Service has sent us a WDSU-TV film. We have made a copy of this film which we can show you if you will let us know the day and hour you wish to see it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James B. Rhoads". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent.

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States